

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are allowed by the Notice of Allowance dated June 8, 2006.

Upon reviewing the allowed claims as presented by the Examiner's Amendment accompanying the Notice of Allowance, a discrepancy was detected between these claims and those discussed during a May 9, 2006, Examiner interview. The above amendment amends claim 1 so as to reinstate the original claim language, which was discussed during the May 9th interview.

On May 3, 2006, the Examiner provided to Applicants, via facsimile, a proposed Examiner's Amendment. (Exhibit A.) The proposed Examiner's Amendment recited, in relevant part, "generating bids having bid values for the plurality of protocols," and "so as to indicate a relative preference among the plurality of protocols." (emphasis in original.) However, the proposed Examiner's Amendment was not a complete and accurate mark-up of claim 1 as pending. Therefore, on May 8, 2006, Applicants faxed a complete and accurate mark-up of claim 1 to the Examiner, which incorporated the Examiner's proposed changes to claim 1. (Exhibit B.) A courtesy copy of Applicants' proposed amendment was also e-mailed on May 9, 2006, to the Examiner. (Exhibit C.)

Neither the Examiner's proposed amendment, nor Applicants' response included the language, "for **each of the plurality of protocols**," or "among **each** of the plurality of protocols," as recited by the Examiner's Amendment accompanying the Notice of Allowance. Nor did Applicants agree to such a change verbally.

Claim 1, as originally filed recites, "generating bids for one or more protocols." No subsequent amendment made to claim 1 during prosecution amended this language.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendment does not modify the scope of the claims as presented in the Examiner's Amendment. Further, the above amendment merely returns the relevant part of claim 1 to its original language. Such language was never rejected or objected to by the Examiner during prosecution.

In addition to the above-discussed amendment to claim 1, Applicants are herewith amending the dependencies of claims 3 and 4 as was discussed during the interview and presented in both the May 8th facsimile and the May 9th e-mail. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter, do not require a new search, and require no substantial new work by the Examiner or the Patent and Trademark Office. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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